



Monday 18 September 2023

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers & Whānau,

I trust you all had a nice weekend, and managed to get out in the sun on Saturday. Being able to watch the All Blacks final before we started the day yesterday, was definitely a highlight for our family. Having close family affiliation in the countries of both teams, it was going to be a win for us either way. The heart of the celebration for me lay in the fact that the two greatest teams were able to once again, entertain the entire rugby world!

Term 4 brings with it lots of fun and also the more formal side of proceedings with all our special assemblies and celebrations. Please feel free to join us when you are able. All the details are on the school APP & the relevant calendars. I am anticipating a smooth run up to the end of the year, and I expect it will come quicker than most of us would like.

Unfortunately the **Wheels Day** that was scheduled for tomorrow has had to be postponed until late next month. As well as the rather nasty weather pattern that seems to be hounding us, Auckland Transport, who attend each year as part of the event are unable to come on any other day this week. Thank you for your understanding, we don't make these changes lightly, and take the best interests of the students into account when making decisions like this.

Congratulations to students Hunter M (1st - Year 4/6), Maddie G (1st - Year 1/3), Delaney H (3rd - Year 1/3) and Maggie H with a special mention, who all placed in the recent **ChartArt competition**. The exhibition prizegiving was held last Thursday at the Warkworth Town Hall. I was very impressed with the quality of the artwork submitted. Our students did us proud. Six local primary schools and two colleges submitted entries this year. Thank you to teacher Janet Goosen and all the classroom teachers for their participation in this worthy local curriculum event.

Some of our students headed along to the **Inter School Cricket** carnival a couple of weeks ago. This is a friendly event, that is more about enjoying the game, than competing. Our students all had an awesome time. It was great to see such good sportsmanship among our players. Thank you to Jane Wrightwebb for organising, and to the teachers and parents that attended on the day.

The **building renovations** in the middle school block are now well underway. Once these are completed we anticipate that everything will hopefully return to normal with classroom movements before the start of the new academic year.

Our school **Athletics** day was held last week for the Year 3 - 6 students. The day saw each group rotate around the events, so everyone could have a go at each activity. It was great to see students encouraging each other. For our Year 3 students this was their first time trying something new. The top 3 boys, and top 3 girls from each year's group event will go along to represent our school in the Inter School event on the 7th November. We feel sure they will do us proud.

Later this week the final **Pizza with the Principal** for the year will be held. It has been wonderful to share these special lunches with very deserving students. I thoroughly enjoy spending some time getting to hear stories of school life, and what students are getting up to. Congratulations to all our recipients, and thank you again to the **Stables Matakana** for supplying us with such tasty Pizzas.

The first of our special assemblies will be held next Friday, 10 November. This will be celebrating all the fantastic effort put into the **Home Learning Challenges** that were set at the beginning of the year. It is an important part of the students' independent learning experience, participating in activities outside the school, and helping at home and in the community etc. The Challenge changes slightly for each year group, and activity suggestions are tailored to the appropriate ages of our students. A notice will be sent home this week, requesting photos that can be used at the assembly of students completing challenges throughout the year. Thank you to teacher Alysha Adams for organising the assembly, and congratulations to all the students that will be awarded medals on the day.

On Friday 17th November we will be participating in **Gumboot Day**. This will be a gold coin fundraiser in acknowledgement of the mental health struggles that so many of us face. All the funds raised on this day will be sent directly to the "I am hope" foundation. This day will also coincide with Casey T joining me as **Principal for the day**. This was an item that was won at our annual Auction event held back in June of this year. I feel sure that Casey will have a fantastic day.

A reminder to please keep a close eye on the Term calendar, which can be found on the school APP, and also on the school Facebook page so that you don't miss out on any important information regarding **upcoming trips and assemblies**. We do love for parents to join us at the end of year celebratory assemblies, so please do take the time to come along if you can.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrel Goosen', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Darrel Goosen

Principal